



Iowa Smart Planning Task Force Comprehensive Planning Committee

Workgroup: Regional Comprehensive Planning

Date: July 13, 2010

Chair: Rick Hunsaker

Scope of group's work:

- 1) Develop a model for regional comprehensive planning for Iowa and recommend partnerships between state agencies, local governments, educational institutions, and research facilities.
- 2) Evaluate and develop incentives to conduct local and regional comprehensive planning, including but not limited to state financial and technical assistance.
- 3) Recommend the means by which technical and financial assistance for comprehensive planning can be provided and administered.

Participants:

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Rep. Donovan Olson	State Representative, Democrat	Donovan.olson@legis.state.ia.us
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Presenters/Experts: N/A

Name	Organization	Email	Category

Workgroup Assignments for Next Meeting (July 29th): N/A

Notes:

I. Workgroup Tasks (*Rick Hunsaker*)

- Regional planning framework model
- Incentives (shared with Workgroup C)
- Financial Incentives (shared with Workgroup C)

II. Elements of a regional plan

- Housing
- Community Health (walkability)
- Transportation
- Economic Development
- Workforce

III. Comments and questions on the nature of a regional plan

- How is it integrated with a comprehensive plan? Should a regional plan serve as a conglomeration of local comprehensive plans?
- The assumption is that all of the smart planning principles are looked at but it's all voluntary.
- Coordination at the county level.
- How does it include input and advice to local government?
- Is it more guiding? Should a regional plan provide only the framework for what a local comprehensive plan should include/address?
- How are decisions made?
- It is not for Mayors and COGS to tell a jurisdiction what to do—"Make this other city do this"
- Relationships—regional to local, power sharing?
- Degree of coordination at local level?
- Regional water authority? Voluntary districts for sub-watershed groups?
- Cooperation among multi-jurisdictions to qualify for incentives
- Organized loosely around watersheds
- Counties become regions
- Hazard mitigation to reduce flooding is one purpose of smart planning. Regional comprehensive plans should not just address disaster mitigation, but other areas as well (transportation, etc.)
- Start with water quality and hazard mitigation (Sewer, water, infrastructure)

- Size—1 county? Minimum number of counties? Three? Pick your partners?
- Multi-jurisdictional to get grant
- Function-based- Regions may vary depending on subject matter. Regions formed for transportation planning purposes may vary from regions based on economic development, etc.
- State regional planning framework—priorities-goals are more broad
- Regions and super regions- COG regions/boundaries could be used as a starting point for regional planning. Flexibility can be provided to local governments, allowing communities to move into other regions if appropriate. COGs should be encouraged to cross boundaries to work together when appropriate.
- Architects have planning retreats and see regions as areas where they work—Council Bluffs, Sioux City, Des Moines, Ames, Quad Cities, Iowa City, Cedar Rapids, and Dubuque. Regions are where there are institutions and developers where the work is at—“planning” synergy.

IV. Future experts and research

- Farm Bureau
- Engineers that implement plans
- COSC
- Farmland Preservation

The workgroup indicated it would like additional information on the following topics before the July 29th meeting:

1. Information on regional plan frameworks used in other states.
2. Information on watershed management authorities created in legislation from the previous session

*Warren can find information on the above items & distribute to the workgroup.